

THE SHERIDAN LIBRARIES



3 1151 03718 6214

BIBLIOTHECA FICTIVA

PRYNCE RADAPANTHUS

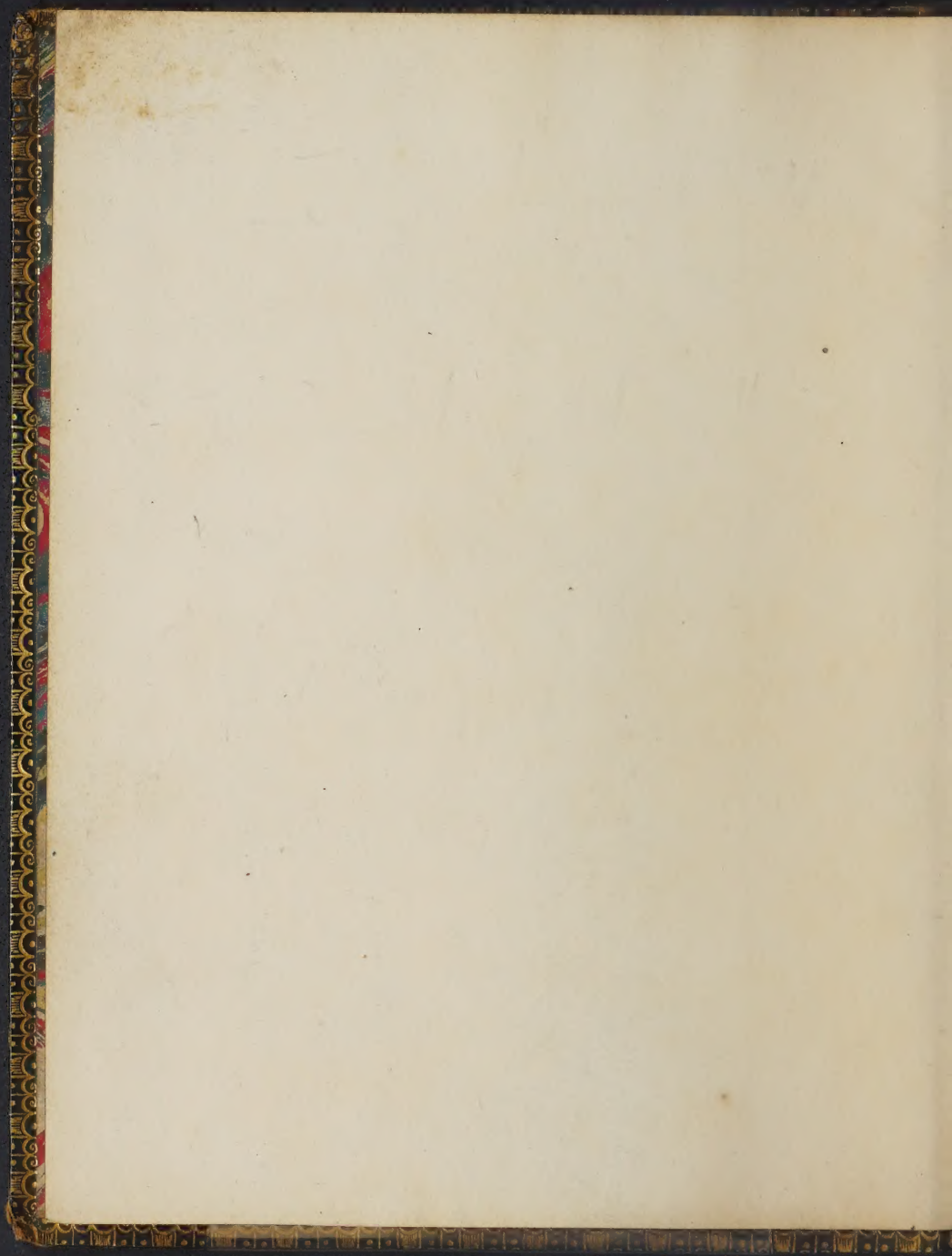












TC794

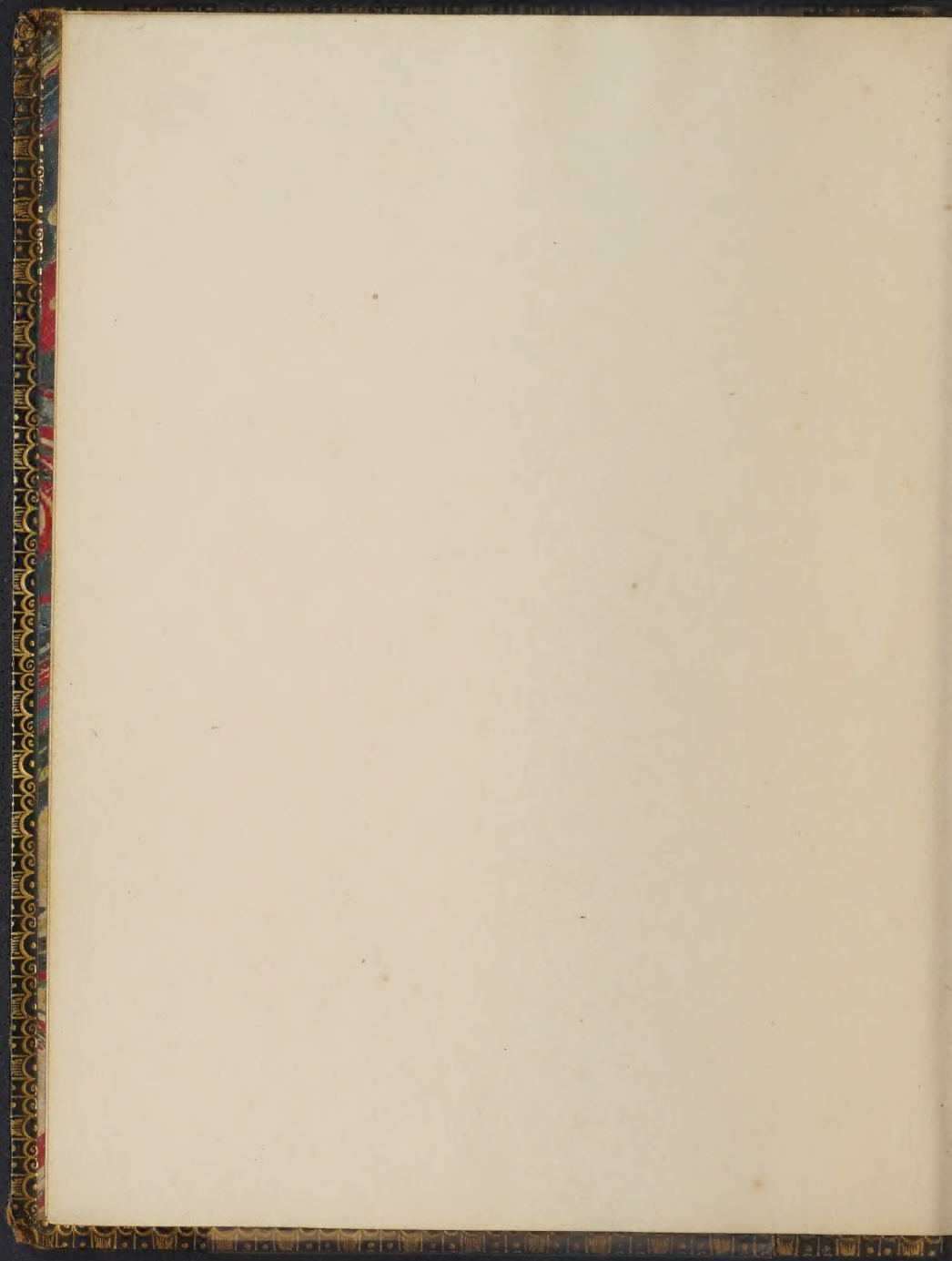
Robert Clark, Birmingham 2857

[REPTON John Ades 1775-1860] (3799)

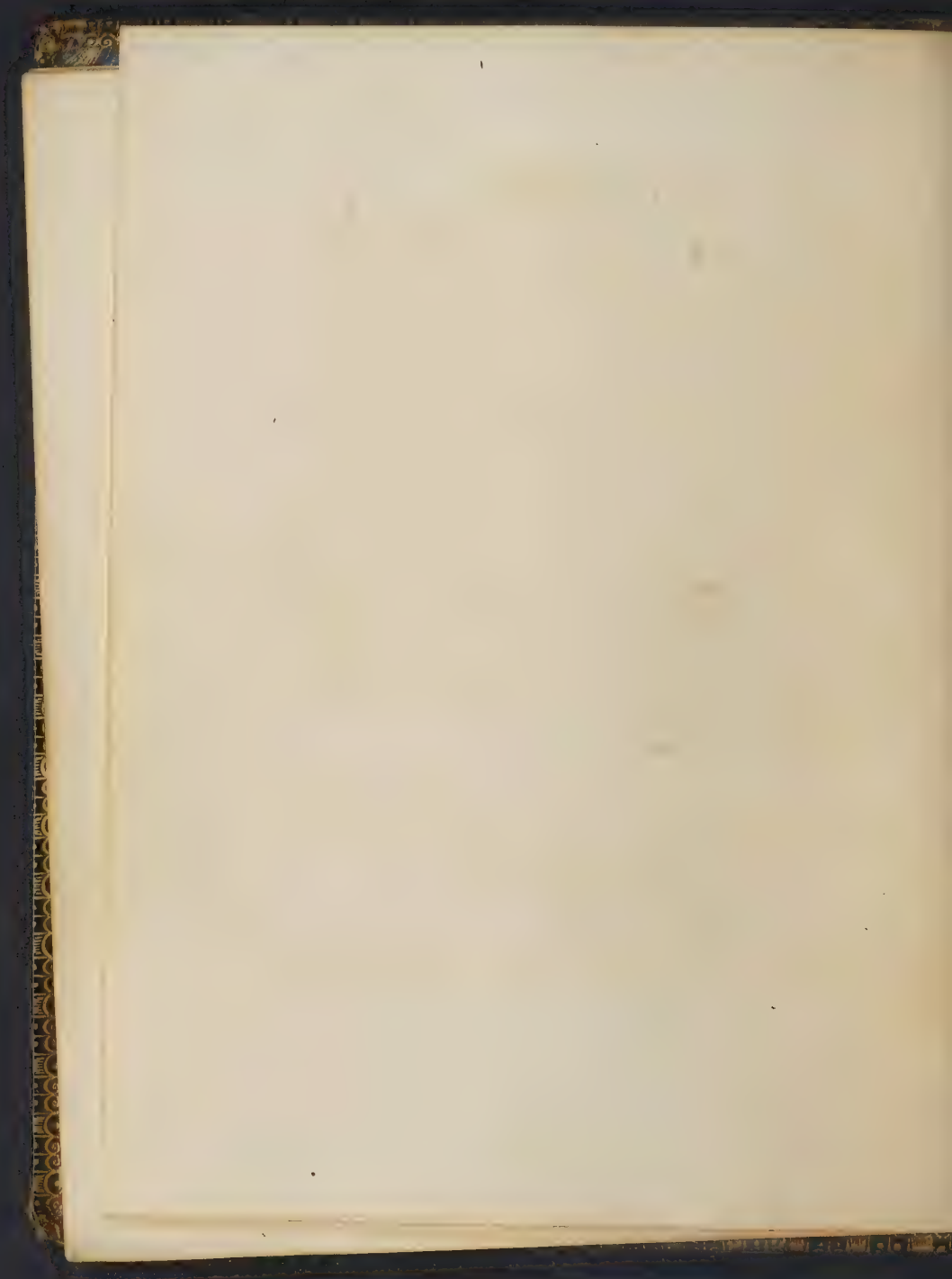
©

The illuminated capital spell
his name. 1/75 capital.

14738







TO THE READER.

THIS Work is a fac-simile of a very scarce Romance, in the possession of the Editor, and is supposed to be unique, as no second copy is known to exist. It is not to be found in the Libraries of Oxford, Cambridge, or in the British Museum, nor is it mentioned in any of the valuable publications of Dibdin. It formerly belonged to an old woman near Shrewsbury. No printer's name is mentioned, but the type is very much like that used by Wynkyn de Worde. The Romance is without date, but from two paper-marks, of which an engraving is here given, some light may be thrown upon the antiquity of this singular and scarce work.

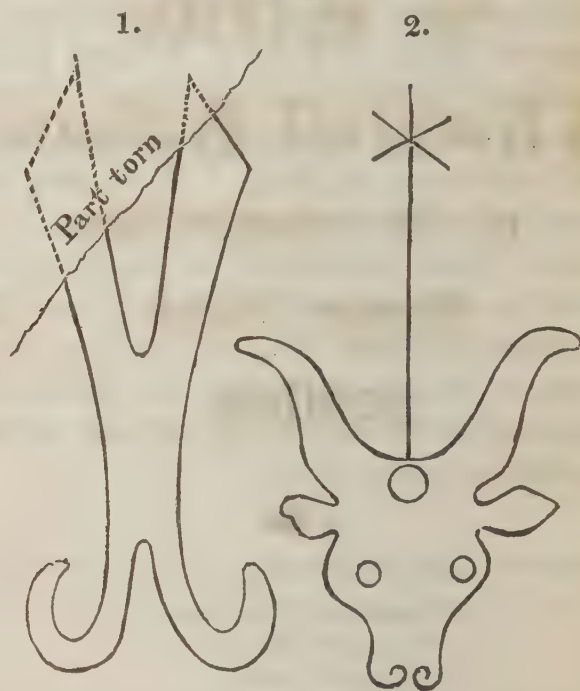
London: Re-printed by R. and A. Taylor, Shoe Lane, 1820.

75 Copies on Plain Paper,
3 Copies on Coloured Paper,
2 Copies on Vellum.

Not printed for Sale.

PAPER MARKS.

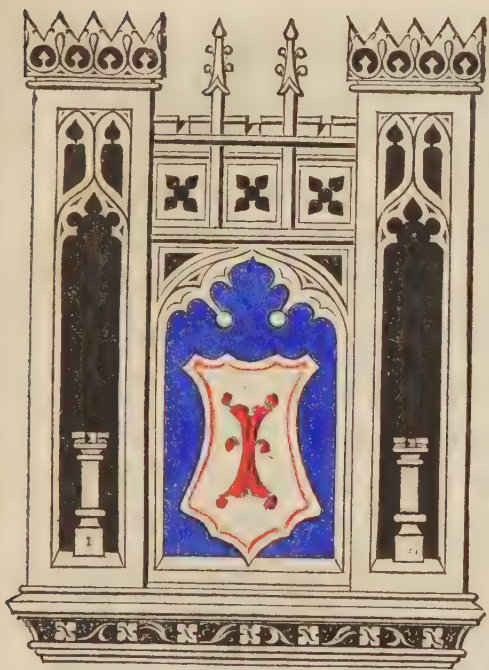
Fig. 1. From a fly-leaf. *N.B.* The dotted lines show the part torn off.



A Trewe
& feythfull Hystorie
of the redoubtable
Prynce Kada-
panthus.







Raun-
 cient dayes
 ther lived
 an hardie
 & a stronge
 manne that
 hight the
 valourous
 Prynce Ra-
 dapanthus,
 sonne of the
 moste migh-
 tie soberat-

gne Kynge Abrodonte and his faire
 Queene Collinella.

Now on a tyme whanne the sable
 nighte gan fade & the gloriouse sun to
 salew the golden daye and gladden the

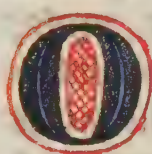
herte of manne, uprose the puissant
prince Radapanthus, & having donned
hys shynning armoure, and grasped his
godely sworde Firmabrande, he mount-
ed his fiery slede Gruffolnoxt, and fol-
lowed by his gentil squire Pintadonte,
they sallied forth in quest of adventure.
They vanced on their journey, when
towards y^e noon of daye they entered
into a thicke and darksome forest,
where their steps were hindered by the
thornes and brambles and muchel an-
noyaunce from todes and serpentes.
The Prynce with hys sworde helwed
his way through the bushes, whan
peradventure striking a stone the dark-
nesse of the forrest disappeared, & they
founde themselves in a passing large
playne, but still surrowded by the fo-

rest on ebery side, and in the myddest
thezeof was a transparent lake, ycleped
Belpaisant, in whych was a goodly
and a faire gondelay, yppainted fulclene,
with purple sayles, and at the helm
sate a beautiful and a comely damesel,
bedygght in azure and golde and a trans-
parent veil over her head bespangled
wyth silber stars. The prynce was
salewed in modest guise by the damesel,
& with hys squire wez mosse gladshomely
receiued into y^e bote: they glided along
the lake till they came to a passing
faire riuer bordered on each syde with
many goodlye trees, very pleasaunt to
behold, as the Oke, the Elme, the
Plane, the Holme, the Chesteyn, the
Beche, the Popelere, the Hasel, the
Maple, the Thorne & the Bore, while

the banks were gayly ornated wyth
flowers and flourettes yfretted in di-
uers colours, and dispredded ovez alle
the plaine. Having proceeded in the
bote, that glode along the wyndyng
streame for a while, the Prynce Rada-
panthus and hys squire disembarked.
So soon as y^e Prynce pulled off a rose
and gave it to the damsel, then all att
once she wyth her bote suddenly va-
nished, the sky was quickly overcaste,
an aweful noize was herd, & eftsoon a
thronge vapour of cloude & smoke was
seen to rise out of the ground; and in
the myddst therof arose a fryghtfull and
moſte uncouth Gyant. He had a swar-
thy viſage, a yellow beard, and a moſt
fiernefull viſnomie; he was completely
armed and mounted upon a fierie dra-

gon. Now the gyant gan most gruffly
to growl with grete discourteousness at
the Prynce Radapanthus, and lifting
up a grete iron mace vanced towards
him. But the valourous Prynce,
mounted on his horse Gruffosnorto,
couched his lance, and with greate
hardihood drabe it into the dragon's
males, and being unhable to regaine
the same, drew hys sword and smote
off the left legg of the Gyaunt. The
Gyant roared wyth dolourous payne,
when the dragon raised hys tayle, &
struck y^e Prince on the helmet, but Ra-
dapanthus with his trenchant blade
strake off the dragons tayle, & having
regained his launce, the dragon sank
down wyth passing grete paine, y^e horse
snuffed the wynd and ramped most fu-

ricously on the neck of y^e dragon, when
the valorous prynce lifted up his gode-
ly sworde Firmabrande, & cleaved the
Gyant thorough the myddel, from the
head to the saddel. The Gyant fell
downe on each side of the dragon with
a tremendous crash, while the blood
was despreden all over the field.



Uercome with fatigue and
coverd with bitter bales the
Prynce fell into a swoond,
whan all attonce the vapour
and darknesse of the air vanished, and
y^e bloode which coverd the field sud-
denly disappeared, & a gleam of light
arose from out of the ground. Then
the damesel of the lake agayne stode
before hym with a cup of enchaunted
liquor, & having besprinkled over the

face of the Prynce Radapanthus, & uttered some strange & uncouth wordes, the mounted a golden chaire bedyght with diamonds and topaz and drawn by wynged serpents: so the rose in the air & eftsoon disappeared.

Having recovered from his swounde by the enchanted liquor, the prynce arole, mounted his horse Gruffosnorto, folowed by his feithfull squize Pintadonte, & pursued his adventure, & having vanced to the ende of the forest, his ears were greeted wyth a distant sounde of musyck, whych encreased still more as he drew nigh, whanne he gan to spie come ryding forth on a mylk whyte stede in rich array a beauteous ladye yclepid the renowned

princess Philamante, with body gentill
& middell small : she was cloathed in a
mantle of grene felbett & a kirtle of
blew ylwrought with byrdes of sundrie
colores; she was attended by ten comely
& burome damselles, dauncyng and
playing on diuers sortes of pleasaunt
musick & followed by a dwarf with a
passing great helmet on hys hed, longe
spurres on his heels, and a great cloke
over hys shoulders, the which trayled
along the grounde. The dwarf, hight
Sir Puny, was followed by a squire,
carryng hys sworde, and leading a
large black horse wyth golden brydel
& saddel studded with pearls and mu-
sical bells of many sundrie shapes, & a
shield bearing a golden appel on an
azure field.

No sooner had the dwarf Sir
Duny perceiued the prynce
Radapanthus than he vanced
t salewed him most courte-
ously, and shewed hym to the moste
peerless princesse Philamante: the
prynce was gretely astounded with the
handsomeness of the princesse, salewed
her most buxomely, which was return-
ed by a moste graceful and soote smile,
t condescending to receiue hym as her
feithful knyght, in which the prynce
was passing glad, t so they proceeded
in companie, t towardes the night
arrived at the court of the Emperour
Primoso, the father of the princesse
Philamante, when he was kindly
welcomed, and presented to the
Emperesse Bellafronte.

A

And now the
golden gate of
Heaven gan to
open, whan gen-
tle Phebus came
ioyfully forth and
caste hys glitter-

ynge beames up to y^e skie, and shote
forth the gladsome daye. Arose the
valourous Prynce Radapanthus, and
uprose theemperour and all his corte;
and, lastly, uprose y^e peerless Pryn-
cess Philamante yclad in a samite robe
yffretted in golde and sylber sheene.

The royal emperour Primoso, as
Frenche Clerkes say, was four foote
hygh: he was royally crowned wyth
a quintuple crown, & a lofty spire an

ell longe, studded with diamond bells
& surmounted by a golden phane. His
majestie was cloathed in a red and
yellow robe, besprinkled with shynng
stars, and held in hys ryghte hand a
sceptre, surmounted by a crystall ymage
of Justice, yblinded & holding a sword
and ballance, which scepter was never
out of the emperours syght. ¶ The
empresse Bellafzonte, who was seven
foot high, was most gloriously crown-
ed wyth an embattled crowne, sur-
mounted by pynacles in topaz, & was
cloathed in ermine and purpel palle, &
in a kirtle besprinkled alle aboute
wyth sylver stazzes, & plettered with
golden letters wel bemottoed; her
thoone were ornated in curious devices
belike unto the Windows of Poules

Churche. ¶ The royall Emperour
handed the Emperers into the royal
halle of the royal pallace, followed by
the princess Philamante, and the
renowned prynce Radapanthus, at-
tended by all the Lordes and Ladies
of the corte, bedight in their best ar-
ray and clad in y^e newest guise. A
grande fesse was prepared in the
grete halle whych was covered with
tapestry: here were depictured Adam
and his wyf Eve, wyth a serpente;
Cobyte and hys dogge; the Kyng of
Aye hanging on a tree; madame Su-
sanna and the two olde menne; Poti-
pher and her frende Joseph, in a cote
wel depaynted in diuers coloures, and
Duke Josue wyth a golden sunne
standyng stille: the three Kinges of

Colen ryding on their prauncing
stedes; the Prodigal son without the
pygges. The Wyndowes of the hall
were ornated wyth royall glas, con-
tayning the achievements of the re-
nowned prynce Potomodo, grete
graundesathez unto the emperor Pri-
moso: the upper parte of the halle was
furnimented with auncient armoure.
The celinge was moste cunnynghie
pcorben with antyck ymagerye and
debyces contayning the cotes and
genealogies of y^e emperour. At the
upper end of the halle on the hie dese,
under a canopy of state, curiouslye
pcorben and pinacled, sat the Empe-
rouz, the Emperess, the Pryncess &
the valliaunt Prynce; than y^e Dukes,
Erls, Barouns, Knyghtes, Squires,

and all the Ladies and Dameselles of
the Corte.

During the time of the feste,
while the minstrells were
pleying in swete concord-
aunce and plesaunt armony
manie most joyfull songs, and whyle
the squire Carber was holding uppe
the huge knyfe and forchette to cutt
the mete, a messengez ranne sudden-
lie into the hall in grete terror and
dismaye, declaring that an huge and
horribel Gyant ycleped Hurlotobum-
pus, was vaneing to claim the hand
of the peerless Princess Philamante.
The whole court were thowen into
great confusion & dismay, y^e minstrels
surceased thei^r plesaunt soundes, the
princes much adawed fell into grete

disquietedness. ¶ From the marvellous puissaunte strengthe of y^e gyant, the knyghtes of y^e court were adawed; none dared to combat with him but only the valourous prince, who rose from the borde, sauns-faile, dygght on his glitterand armour, seized hys sword, and having mounted his goodly horse Gryffosnorto, proceeded in quest of Huzlotobumpus: he met him in the courte of the Palace, armed wyth a clubbe & mounted on a red roan steede. The gyant, who cared not for no manne nor yet for no woman neither, vaunced with a sternful visnomie, and wyth mightie strength he lifted up his ponderous clubb, & heaped blows on the shield of Radapanthus, whych produced drepfull soundes, & shooke the

wyndowes of the pallace. The prynce
flaggered by the force of the blow, but
eftsoones recovered: he spurred his
stede, ran furiously at the gyant, and
with hys godelye trenchant blade
chopt him in two below the waist;
the bodye with the head and armes
fell with a loude & thunderand sounde
belike unto a lofty Oak on the playn:
the horse fled wyth the lower part of
the gyant conteyning the legs & part
of the body which remained fixed on the
saddel.

Aftsoon the news of ye death
of the gyant arriued at the
hall of the Emperour, it was
joyfullie hailed with grete
joy by the joyfull people: themperour,
themperess, and the moste peerless

prynces of all pryncesses, & the corte,
greeted the valourous prince Bada-
panthus, & welcomed him wyth manie
sweet soundes of plesaunt music.

In a few dayes after thys
strange and perillous battle
a right faire damesell and a
goode, wyth suffused eyes,
arrived at y^e court of the emperour
Primoso, to demaund aide for the
Ladie Mirrafonte, against a gyaunt
who had wrongfully detained her and
alle her knightes and ladies in her
Castle as food to satisfy his hungrie
malwe, when he devoured every daye
for his dinner two of her knyghts, &
everie nighte a faire damsel or a fatt
fryar for his soppere: the Ladie Mir-
rafonte is reserved for the last; & if she

is not reſkewed wythin three dayes,
ſhe muſt be doomed to death ſauns-
faile, to ſatiſſie the ravenous hunger
of the hungered of all hungry gyants,
who has taken poſſeſſion and ſecured
the gate of y^e caſtle, by placing thereat
a large ſtone, which no man but hym-
ſelfe can move.

The damelſel havyng tolde thys
woeful tale to the emperour and the
court, three knightes aroſe to proffer
thei^r aide: Sir Sterrigogle, knyght
of the Comet; Sir Filliguts, knight
of the Cups, and y^e baillant prynce
Radapanthus. Lots being drawn for
the order of combat wyth the gyant,
the fiſt fell on Syr Sterrigogle, who
bore on hys ſhilde Azure, a goldene
comet betweene ſeven ſtarres Argent.

Sir Killiguts bore Argent, a bend
Sable three silber cups. The Prynce
Radapanthus bore on his shield,
Azure, within a bordure Or, a por-
trait of the peerless pryncess Phila-
mante.



Radapanthus &
the valourouse
knights with their
squires and the
damefelle habying
taken leaue of the
Emperor and all

hys corte, went forth in quest of the
castle of the ladye Mirrafonte. They
joumeyed on their way for many a
myle, untill they reached a barren
plaine, and at a distance they began to

spie a wall, which arose out of the
grounde, and as they proceeded for-
ward, they suddenly found themselves
surrounded by it, & the plain, which
was brent by the heat of y^e sunne, was
all attonce covered by thornes and
brambels that were risen out of the
grounde: they spied a flat stone with
an inscription in unknown characters,
and habying with grete labour lifted it
up, they found many steps rudelye
carbed out of the solid rock, leadyng
downe to a subterraneous passage.
The knights with the squires and the
dameles descended, until they came to a
beauteous and splendyd cave, plighted
up with golden lamps, and in the
middest thereof ranne a brilliant and
transparent ryber, that made a mur-

muring and soote sound. In sundry
places of the crystall streame where it
ranne smooth, were seen golden and
sylber fysh swymmyng & crylking all
about, and in diuers parts of y^e rocks
were seen issuing out great and small
cascades, and wyth sundrie faire and
goodlie fountaynes, which gushed out
of the earthe, and glided in beauteous
stremes ower the pebbles of ruby and
topaz, intermyngled wyth curious
shels. All about the cave were seene
manie passing faire byrdes, gayly be-
decked in diuers colores, singynge
swete harmonypous music, and whyche
twittered wyth their golden and sylber
wynges ower every part of the cave,
but disturbed not the lamps, which
hong around the same.

A Drapt and enchanted wpyth
the lovelyness of the cave, &
beyng wearied wpyth the
length of their journey, the
valiant knights and the damesel rested
themselves awhyle. Eftsoon they arose,
and pursuing their adventure through
a darksome passage, they came into a
spacious court, and saw a golden doore
guarded by two porters yclad in Lyn-
colne grene. The damesel habying pro-
nounced manie strange wordes, threw
some water at the doore, when sudden-
lie it flew open, & the porters vanished
away. The three knights and their
squires followed by the damesel, tyll
they came to a splendid halle, covered
with auncient tapestry and cloathys of
baudekyn, wel broidered with golde &

sylyber, conteyning the feithful hystory
of Sir Argente & Sir Poberte. The
celyng was wel corbed, and the panels
ypainted with azure colores, and or-
nated with sylber stars bespreden all
aboute.

¶ At the further ende of the halle they
founde six horses of solid golde, wyth
saddels and byddels bedecked wyth
perles and rubys, and a faire palfrey
of sylber with golden wyngs.

¶ The knightes and their squires
having seated the damesel on the sylber
horse, tooke the golden horses and
mounted them, whanne straitways a
rumbling noise was heard, & the halle
suddenlie vanished; the carved celyng
being changed into black clouds, and
the bespangled stars having become the

firmamente in the skie, a few whereof
were iust seen among the cloudes, and
a deep and sombrous darknes covered
the heavens wyth tremendous storms
of thunder and lyghtenyng.

Proceedyng on their journey
the prynce & his companions
came into a forest, whanne
they wer annoyed by the fear-
ful roaring of beastes, as of Lyons,
Beres, Libbards, and Griffons, yet
pursued they their adventure till the
dawne of daye.

¶ And now hath dame Aurora rising
out of the bed of her olde manne Ty-
tans, chased the mornynge starre, and
ushereth forth the golden daye; & now
Dan Phebus mounting his glitterand
car, hath driven on his praunching

stedes, when the valorous prince Radapanthus, the tres balliaunt Sir Sterrigogle, & the redoubted knight Syr Killiguts, followed by their feithful squires and the damesel, pursewed their way, whanne they gan to spy a furious and rapid ryber, and ober it a splendyd bridge wel ybattled & adorned with crystall pynacles, and at ech ende of the bridge were turrets of alblaster enlaïd wyth golde ypoudered with safyre, and surmounted by silver flaggs.

¶ So soon as the knights and the damesel were passed ober the bridge, the squires with their horses sunk into the earth and dissappeared. The prince and hys three companions natheless pursewed their adventure, & they soone perceived the Castle of the Ladie Mir-

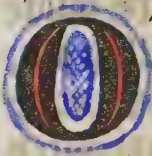
rafonte, and advancynge nearer they
gan to spie the head of the Gyant, and
the top of his club ober the battlements
of the outer walls, watching for them.
On the top of the castle was seene the
forlorne ladie Mirrafonte, who from
the sorrowfulnes of her grete sorrow,
was passing sorrowful, and she waved
a flag to hasten forwarde her expected
champions.

The Champions adbaunced to
the gate of the Castle, whan
out crept the horribel Gy-
aunt, wyth a grete mouth,
tremendous whiskers on hys lip, and
a bezd of porcupines quills; his nose
was like y^e horn of a rhynocerus, out
of the whyche arose three huge eyen,
like burning glasses; his teeth were

like the iron spikes of a Portcullis:
the skull of his emptie hed was made
of iron, and his eares were like the
ears of an Oliphant.

The gyant was compleatly armed
in copper gilt, his legs were covered
with iron mayle, and his feete with
skins of mice; in stead of handes,
moreover he had clawes like the clawes
of Lopsters, and he helde a huge club
wyth a sharpe edge, in such guise that
it serued alike for knocking down or
cutting up.

No sooner was the gyaunt pre-
pared for the combat gainst the right
noble champions, thanne the silber
horse flew off wyth the Damesel, and
perched on the top of an hie moun-
taine.

 If the dredfull combat of thys
dredful daye, Sing O God-
desse Clio; and thou Bello-
na, sister unto the god Mars,
come wyth thy flaming torche, drive
forth thy car with all thy furie, and
nowe make the boldest hertes shiver
with astoundement, and the stoutest
courage wax tender in the bowells of
the mightie, for dire was the conflict.
First Sir Sterrigogle, a passing strong
manne, havyng couched his launce,
ranne furiously at the gyant, but un-
hable to pierce the armour broke his
speare: the gyaunte raised hys clubbe
agaynst the knyghte, and smote off his
hed, when the gode red blood spout-
ed forth from out of hys necke ful-
hote, like a fountayne, and the bodye

fell on the plaine. Channe the moste
redoubted knight Syr Fillyguts,
knight of the Silber Cups, with body
younge, and middel large, advanced
against the gyant, who agayne raised
his huge club, and moste unhendilie
chopt off the head of the golden horse;
the head flew into the air, and the bo-
die fell downe wyth a golden sounde,
a sound like golde: then the legs of
the knight being under the horse, the
gyant trampled hym wyth his feete.
The Prince Radapanthus habying
espyed the fate of his companions,
vanced forward sans-faile, whan the
gyant most furiously growled at the va-
liant prince, swearing by Mahounde
and Terbagaunt, and sayd, Advance,
caitiff, I am an hungred; I want my

dinner: you shal be eaten stewed in onions; the Lady Mirrafonte shal be dressed for my soppere, & shal be eaten wyth apple sawce, so aduance. Thou raskally gyant, sayd the Prynce, before thou thynk of the skynne first catch the hare; but behold most discourteous & greedie brute, looke aboue you, the vultures and the kytes are waiting for your karkase. So saying he drew his sworde Firmabrande, struck a blowe at the gyant, but made no impression on hys armour. The gyant lifted up hys club, when the prynce Radapanthus eluded the blowe; the clubbe fell wyth a loude and dredful sounde on the plaine, & threw up the dust and the stones into the aize. The Prynce dismounted from hys golden steed, and

with two puissaunt strokes cleaved off
the legs of the gyant below y^e ankles,
spite of the mouses skyns, whych were
charmed in vain: the Gyant who was
fighting near the walls of the castle,
fell against one of y^e gates, but brains
habinge none, he broke his emptye
skull, & knocked off one of the turrets
and battlements.

D sooner was the furious gy-
ant slain, than the whole aire
was cobered wpyth a passing
grete darknesse from y^e num-
ber of vultures and kytes, and other
curious byrdes of praye, from far and
neere, some wpyth feete like dragons,
some with wyngs of butterflies, and
others with claws like mannes hands,
and manie with large beaks like files,

to cut away the gyants armour to get
att the mete.

The valourous Prynce baunced
ynto the courte of the castle, whan he
was mosse courteously receiued by the
mosse comely and debonaire lady, the
Ladie Mirrafonte. Now hath the
giant been deboured, and eaten up to
the bones, when the byrdes disperfed
into the aire: the silber horse flew ober
the walls, and descended into y^e court,
the damesel alighted, and was kindlye
saledwed by her Ladie.

Radapanthus having broken open
the doors of the dungeons, released the
wel fatted but uneaten knightes from
their mosse woefull of all woful situa-
tions, and having restored the castle
into the handes of the Ladie Mirra:

fonte tooke hys leabe. He went into
a passing grete halle yclepid the hall
of Scandal, wherein were seen on the
walls the tongues of Ladies wel be-
nayed thereon, and much eten by the
wormes, manie of the tongues were
the tongues of auncient spynsters. At
th'end of the halle was a beauteous
caskenet, ornated with the Saffyre,
the Emeralde, and the Carboncle
stone, wyth the goodlye worde Si-
lentium in golden letters, and with-
in the same were seen certain tongues,
well preserbed, each of them habpng
Prudentia written thereon.

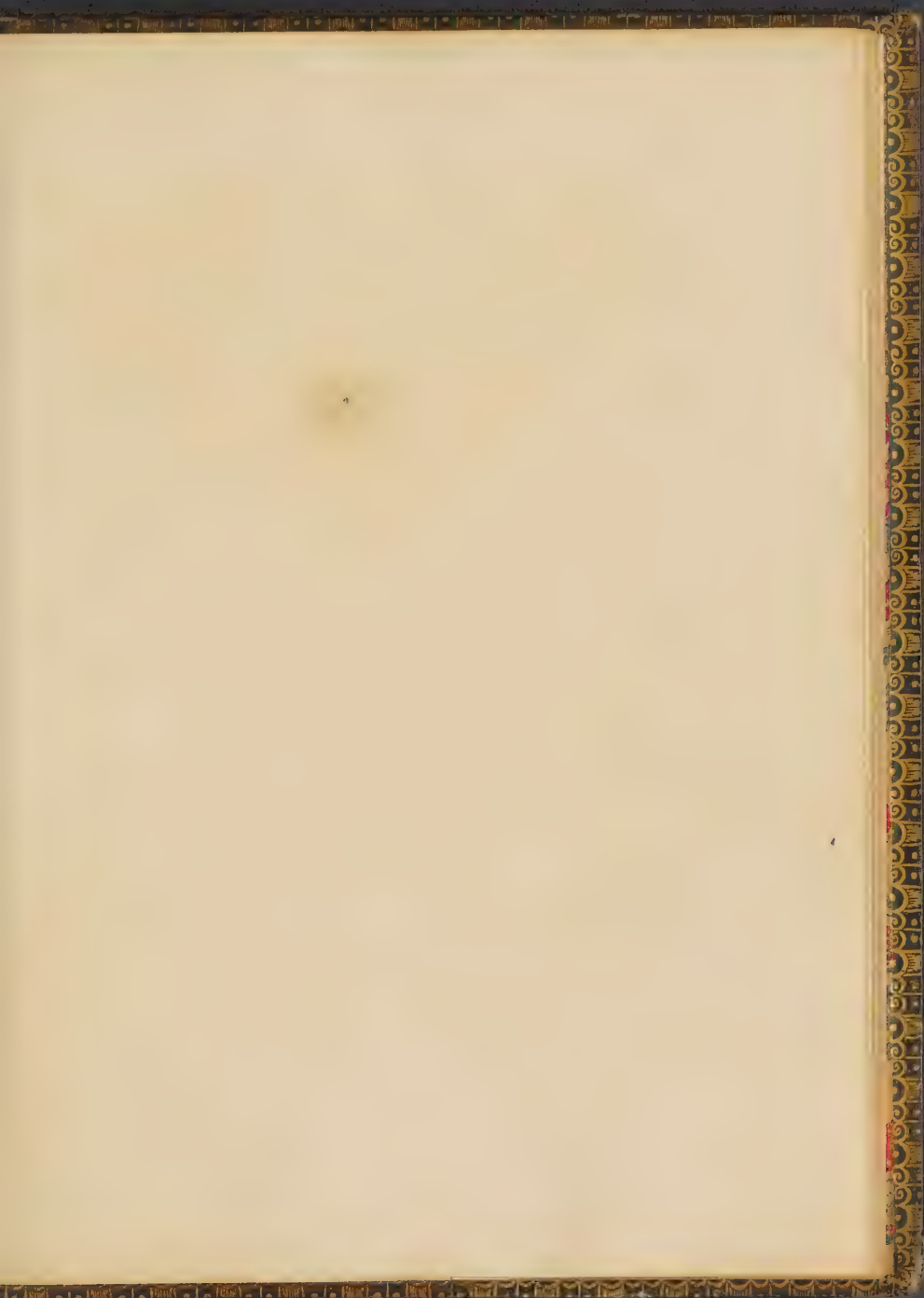
¶ And now hath Dan Phebus fol-
lowing the heeles of Dame Aurora,
ushered forth the cheerfull dape, whan
the puissaunt Prynce Radapanthus,

having taken the head of the gyaunt,
pursued his waye to the Court of the
Emperor Primoso, & habying crossed
thenchanted bridge, he was astound-
ed to see it invisible, & to find it wyth
all the turrets and pynacles vanished
awaie. The prynce entered the forest
weariéd wyth the weight of the iron
hed, when he joyfullye spied a glitte-
rand car drawn by Griffons, & habying
mounted it, and placed the head by the
side of him, pursued his way over the
forrest, & arrived before the city of the
Emperour. He was much astounded
when he saw the thre lost squires cum-
ningly prowd in alblaster over ye gate,
and yplaced on curious tablements in
nitches overarched, and on the top of
the gate the turrets and pynacles of

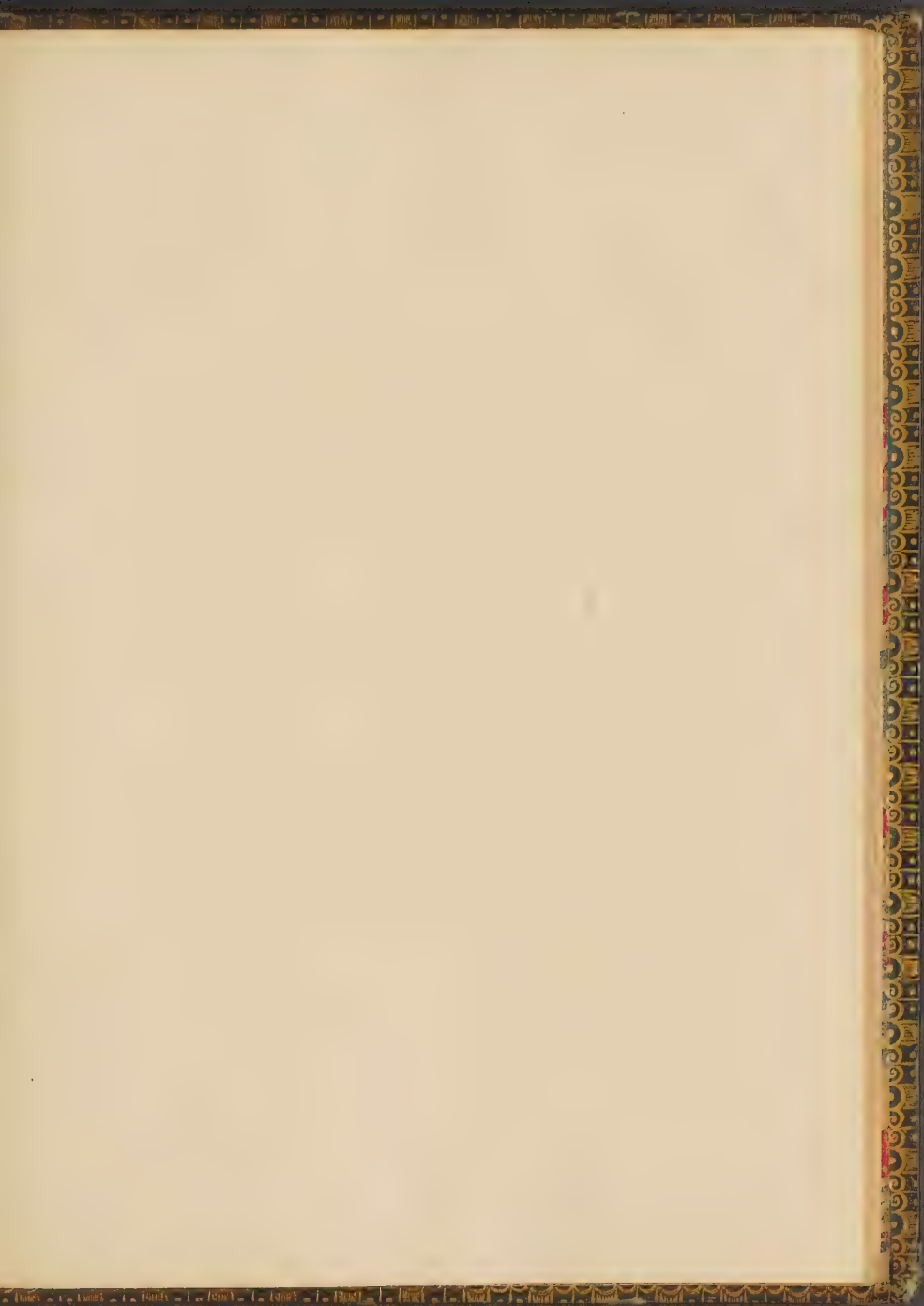
the enchanted brydge. The Prynce
entered the gate, & arrived at the pal-
lace, & having saluted the Emperour,
the Emperess, and all the corte, retired
to the embowred bowe of the mosse
joyfullest of all joyful pryncesses, the
pryncess Philamante, who to see him
was passing glad, and so she made a
speech, such as never was heard be-
fore, and it finished in these wordes,
Prynce Radapanthus, mine own herte
swete, let us be glad some that we are
heere, and not in the gyaunts mawes,
merrie and not mangled, swelling
with joy and not swallowed, mirthfull
moving and not eaten up alive. Many
other plesaunt wordes passed betweene
them; but what they seyde & what they
did is not recorded in this storie.

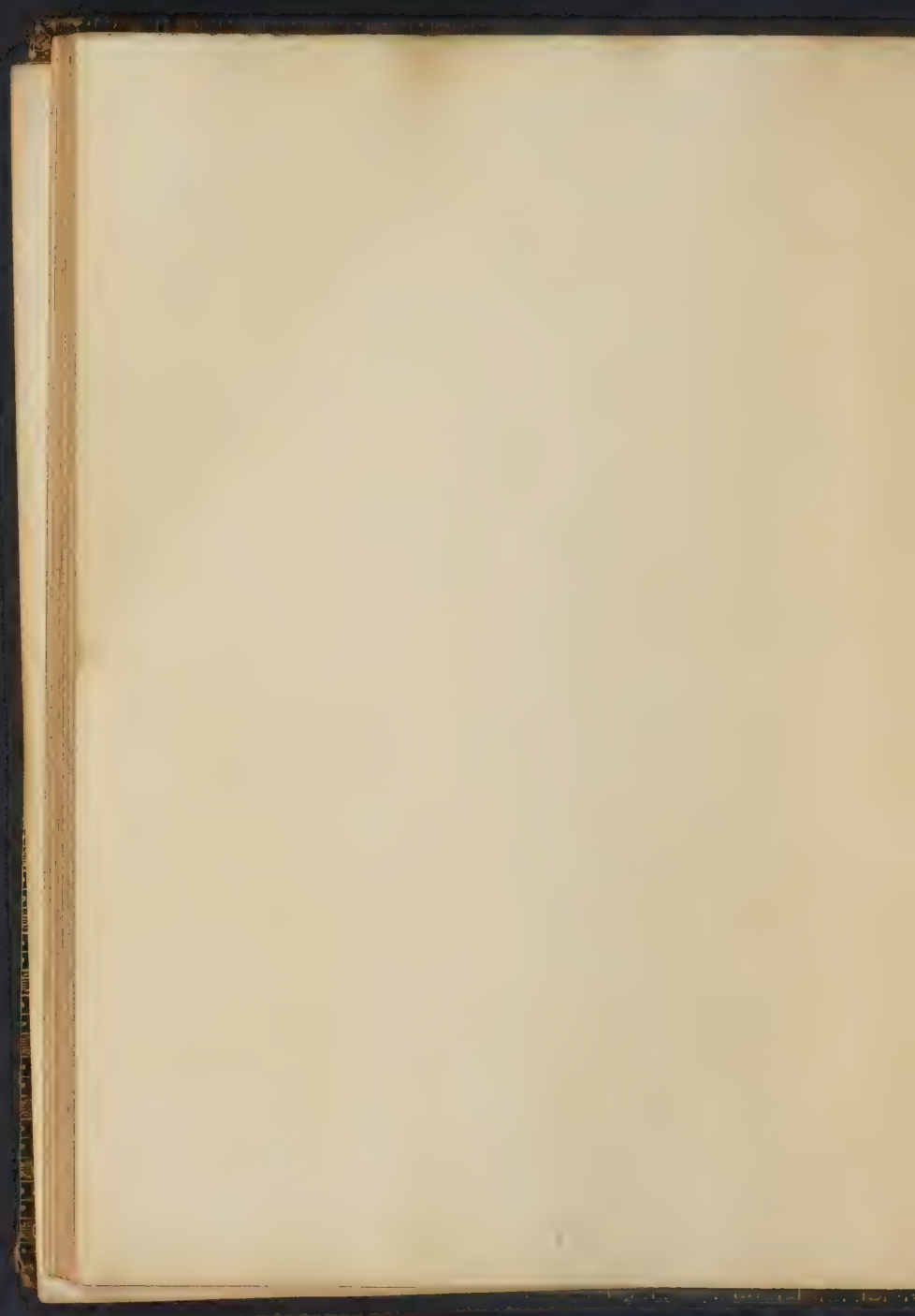
Heere endeth the Hystorie of the
redoubtable Prince Radapanthus.
Emprented for A. R. and to be solde
at his shoppe at the Sygne of
the Catte and Fiddel, neere
unto the lytle Northe
doore of Dowles
Churche.

∴ ∴ ∴









12693





